

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

### April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013

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#### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

suspects (people thought to be criminals)	marathon (42km race)	explosives (bombs)
manhunt (looking for someone)	identify (show the name)	wound (injury)
ethnic (cultural background)	cache (supply)	decade (10 years)

### Extra definition to help you understand the reading:

**on the run** – running away from the police

1. Police try to catch \_\_\_\_\_ and then ask them questions about the crime.
2. When you travel you must bring your passport to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself.
3. It has been a \_\_\_\_\_ since I have been in school, so it is hard to get used to studying again.
4. I am \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese, but I have lived in Canada for 12 years now.
5. My goal is to run a \_\_\_\_\_ so I am training three times a week.
6. After the dog bit me I had a nasty \_\_\_\_\_ that needed stitches.
7. The criminals kept a \_\_\_\_\_ of guns in a house in the country.
8. When a criminal breaks out of jail there is a huge \_\_\_\_\_ to look for him/her.
9. It is illegal for people to have or make \_\_\_\_\_.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ killed a police officer and threw explosives at police.	a) The two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing b) Two criminals in a car chase
2. After the car chase and gun battle one brother was _____ the other was _____.	a) wounded / dead b) dead / on the run
3. _____ were in the streets in a manhunt that shut down the Boston area.	a) Thousands of officers b) Hundreds of police
4. The brothers were ethnic Chechens who had been in the U.S. _____.	a) for a long time near Boston. b) for about a decade.
5. Boston's police commissioner said the suspects had _____.	a) no other weapons. b) a large supply of weapons.
6. The Boston Marathon bombings on Monday killed _____ and wounded _____.	a) more than 100 / 180 b) 3 people / more than 180

### Discussion Question

Why do you think some young people become part of terrorist groups and activities?

## News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

The words below are from the second news story. Choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) attack	a) start begin
	2) launch	b) emotional makes others cry
	3) mock	c) aggressive fight against
	4) strip-tease	d) read aloud spoken
	5) charity	e) sexy show exotic dancer
	6) voiced	f) donation giving to those in need
	7) moving	g) to make fun of a joke

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**landslide victory** – winning a race with a large majority

**“in a way over your head”** – to be doing something much too difficult for your skills

**eulogy** – a speech praising a person, usually read at the funeral

**fed up** – tired of something; annoyed or angry about something

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ Justin Trudeau is the new leader of the federal Conservative party.
2. \_\_\_\_ Trudeau won a landslide victory in the Liberal leadership race Monday.
3. \_\_\_\_ The Conservatives then launched 2 TV ads with an embarrassing video of Trudeau.
4. \_\_\_\_ The ads end with "Justin Trudeau. He's in way over his head."
5. \_\_\_\_ Trudeau believes Canadians are fed up with negative politics, so he will remain positive.
6. \_\_\_\_ Justin Trudeau is the son of Pierre Trudeau, who was Prime Minister of Canada for 15 years.

### Discussion Question

Do you think a young leader is better or worse than a more experienced leader?

What are the qualities of a good leader?

### News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. announced	a) make a written text public
	2. jazz	b) to not get what you want
	3. enrolled	c) lowered or less
	4. diplomas	d) to have a bad effect on something or someone
	5. reduced	e) style of music which comes from America
	6. to be out of luck	f) certificate given for completing something, usually a program of study
	7. released	g) say something to the public and media
	8. damaging	h) to be registered in a course or program

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Which university is considering cuts in this story?
2. Which program in particular will be cut?
3. Will students who are already in the program still be able to graduate?
4. Students who were planning to start the course later this year are facing two problems. What are those two problems?
5. Which well-known Calgarian has said publically that he is concerned about the cuts?

### Discussion Question

Have you watched any hockey games this year? What is your favorite sport to watch on TV?

## Language Focus

### Passive Voice

In the **Active voice** we focus on who is doing the action because the subject of the sentence is the doer of the action.

Ex: Police *identified* the suspects.

In the **Passive voice** we focus on the action itself or on the object receiving the action, rather than who is doing it. The subject of the sentence receives the action.

Ex: The suspects *were identified* (by police.)

We use passive voice in three situations:

1. When the doer of the action is unknown, or not important.
2. When we want to express that the action/event is more important than the actor.
3. When we write a scientific paper or lab report.

**Forming the passive voice :** 'be' verb + past participle of the main verb.

Present tense: The holiday **is celebrated** around the world.

Past tense: The crime **was committed** by a juvenile.

Future tense: The criminal **will be sent** to jail.

Let's look at some examples adapted from our stories this week. Which sentences are in the active voice? Which are in the passive voice? Highlight the verbs. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing killed a police officer.
2. The suspects were identified as Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev.
3. Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed overnight.
4. His brother Dzhokhar, a 19-year-old college student, escaped.
5. Three people were killed and more than 180 were wounded by the bombs on Monday.
6. Trudeau won a landslide victory in the Liberal leadership race Sunday.
7. Shortly after his win three ads featuring mocking videos were launched.
8. The Tory ads were voiced in a mocking tone to say Trudeau did not have enough experience.
9. Trudeau promised to stay positive.
10. A moving eulogy was given by Justin at his father's funeral in 2000.

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	APRIL 19 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for April 19 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	The two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing killed a police officer and threw explosives at police in a car chase and gun battle that left one of them dead and his brother on the run. Thousands of officers were in the streets in the manhunt on Friday that shut down the Boston area. The suspects were identified as Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, ethnic Chechen brothers who had lived in Dagestan in southern Russia. An uncle said they had been in the U.S. for about a decade and lived near Boston. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was found later on Friday evening hiding in a boat in suburban Watertown and is now in hospital unable to speak with a gunshot wound to the throat. The bombings on Monday killed three people and wounded more than 180 others. Boston's police commissioner said the two suspects had such a large cache of weapons that they were probably planning other attacks.	0:10
Story 2	Justin Trudeau is the new leader of the federal Liberal party and the Conservatives have already started attacking him. Trudeau won a landslide victory in the Liberal leadership race Sunday. Shortly after, the Conservatives launched three television ads featuring video of Trudeau doing a mock strip-tease for a charity event. The Tory ads were voiced in a mocking tone, saying that the new Liberal leader does not have the experience or judgment to be prime minister and end with: "Justin Trudeau. He's in way over his head." Trudeau has promised to stay positive, saying that Canadians are fed up with negative politics. Justin Trudeau is the son of Pierre Trudeau, who was prime minister for 15 years. He died in 2000. Justin gave a moving eulogy at his funeral.	01:11
Story 3	Music teachers and students say Mount Royal University is making a big mistake. This week cuts were announced to several programs including Calgary's only jazz program. Students already enrolled in the two-year program will be able to get their diplomas, but they wonder if reduced staff will hurt the quality of the courses. Students who were supposed to be starting the program this year are out of luck and it's too late to apply to other schools. Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi released a letter addressed to the chair of MRU's board of governors that says he thinks the cuts could be very damaging to the city.	02:07

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary

1. Police try to catch suspects and then ask them questions about the crime.
2. When you travel you must bring your passport to identify yourself.
3. It has been a decade since I have been in school, so it is hard to get used to studying again.
4. I am ethnic Chinese, but I have lived in Canada for 12 years now.
5. My goal is to run a marathon so I am training three times a week.
6. After the dog bit me I had a nasty wound that needed stitches.
7. The criminals kept a cache of guns in a house in the country.
8. When a criminal breaks out of jail there is a huge manhunt to look for him/her.
9. It is illegal for people to have or make explosives.

#### Listening

1. _____ killed a police officer and threw explosives at police.	a) The two suspects in the Boson Marathon bombing b) Two criminals in a car chase
2. After the car chase and gun battle one brother was _____ the other was _____.	a) wounded / dead b) dead / on the run
3. _____ were in the streets in a manhunt that shut down the Boston area.	a) Thousands of officers b) Hundreds of police
4. The brothers were ethnic Chechens who had been in the U.S. _____	a) for a long time near Boston. b) for about a decade.
5. Boston's police commissioner said the suspects had _____	a) no other weapons. b) a large supply of weapons.
6. The Boston Marathon bombings on Monday killed _____ and wounded _____.	a) more than 100 / 180 b) 3 people / more than 180

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
<b>c</b>	1) attack	a) start begin
<b>a</b>	2) launch	b) emotional makes others cry
<b>g</b>	3) mock	c) aggressive fight against

e	4) strip-tease	d) read aloud spoken
f	5) charity	e) sexy show exotic dancer
d	6) voiced	f) donation giving to those in need
b	7) moving	g) to make fun of a joke

### Listening

1. F Justin Trudeau is the new leader of the federal Conservative party.
2. F Trudeau won a landslide victory in the Liberal leadership race Monday.
3. F The Conservatives then launched 2 TV ads with an embarrassing video of Trudeau.
4. T The ads end with "Justin Trudeau. He's in way over his head."
5. T Trudeau believes Canadians are fed up with negative politics, so he will remain positive.
6. T Justin Trudeau is the son of Pierre Trudeau, who was Prime Minister of Canada for 15 years.

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
g	1. announced	a) make a written text public
e	2. jazz	b) to not get what you want
h	3. enrolled	c) lowered or less
f	4. diploma	d) to have a bad effect on something or someone
c	5. reduced	e) style of music which comes from America
b	6. to be out of luck	f) certificate given for completing something, usually a program of study
a	7. released	g) say something to the public and media
d	8. damaging	h) to be registered in a course or program

### Listening

1. Which university is considering cuts in this story? *Mount Royal University*
2. Which program in particular will be cut? *The Jazz program*
3. Will students who are already in the program still be able to graduate? *Yes*



4. Students who were planning to start the course later this year are facing two problems. What are those two problems? *They cannot register in the program and it is too late to apply to other programs.*
5. Which well-known Calgarian has said publically that he is concerned about the cuts? *Mayor Naheed Nenshi*

#### Language Focus

1. The two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing **killed** a police officer. (active voice)
2. The suspects **were identified** as Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev. (passive voice)
3. Tamerlan Tsarnaev **was killed** overnight. (passive voice)
4. His brother Dzhokhar, a 19-year-old college student, **escaped**. (active voice)
5. Three people **were killed** and more than 180 **were wounded** by the bombs on Monday. (passive voice)
6. Trudeau **won** a landslide victory in the Liberal leadership race Sunday. (active voice)
7. Shortly after his win three ads featuring mocking videos **were launched**. (passive voice)
8. The Tory **ads were voiced** in a mocking tone to say Trudeau **did not have** enough experience. (passive voice) (active voice)
9. Trudeau **promised** to stay positive. (active voice)
10. A moving eulogy **was given** by Justin at his father's funeral in 2000. (passive voice)